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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 20143-000110US

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

On April 30, 2001
TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
By: Gene Quinn Can

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

MICHAEL D. POWELL

Application No.: 09/747,748

Filed: December 22, 2000

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS
FOR A CRYPTOGRAPHICALLY
ASSISTED COMMERCIAL
NETWORK SYSTEM
DESIGNED TO FACILITATE
IDEA SUBMISSION,
PURCHASE AND LICENSING
AND INNOVATION TRANSFER

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 3, lines 11 through 17, please replace the existing paragraph with the following:

--Therefore, there is a need to utilize the power of the Internet and to allow for the implementation of a unique business model to manage effectively and efficiently a marketplace for raw ideas—in short, to manage innovation. There is a need to allow novice and expert innovators alike to present confidentially or nonconfidentially their ideas, innovations and inventions directly or globally to individuals and companies capable of implementing the innovation and possessing the resources needed to exploit the opportunity.--